

COOL FEET ON HOT DAYS  
In our airy WOMEN'S SANDALS  
**FREIMANN & BEIN**  
THE HILLMAN, HEBEL ST., JERUSALEM

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**SCHARF**  
for youth and women  
**FURS**  
and new ideas for smart  
**DRESSES**  
The Hillman, HEBEL ST., JERUSALEM

## Column One By David Courtney

**THE Government's womb-to-tomb health plan is characteristic of this country. In the present state of Israel's finances it should not be a feasible scheme. With the problem of immigration and absorption still dependent on unpredictable factors, this major step towards the Welfare State will seem like lunacy to those who reckon by the clock. With the frontiers of the country undefined and no formal or effective understanding between Israel and her neighbours, who recently marched against the State and some of whom threaten to do so again, "realists" may consider the new proposals to be irresponsible. With the shadow of international conflict deepening and the idea of the Welfare State regarded in powerful western circles as subversive, those who style themselves the protectors of our civilisation may be gravely concerned to see social security share with military security the funds and ingenuity of Israel. In brief, if the plan is as good and as realistic as its sponsors say it is, it will have to fight its way against considerable opposition.**

**ANNEURIN BEVAN'S** womb-to-tomb health plan for Britain has been a success for two reasons. The first reason was the presence of the need. The second reason was Anneurin Bevan himself. Both had the advantage of a government with unexpected parliamentary authority and the backing of a people full of enthusiasm and confidence in the future. The Government has not a parliamentary authority as firm and abundant as Labour had in Britain five years ago. The people of Israel may be less enthusiastic for the Welfare State than they were two years ago, as the people of Britain, from all accounts, are less enthusiastic than they were five years ago. There is no Anneurin Bevan equivalent in Israel, Bevan, whose strong and impressive personality made the health scheme an issue which could have seriously embarrassed the Government and divided the Party. Mrs. Golda Myerson has the genuine will to improve the social standards of the country, she has sincerity. It looks like the sort of scheme she would fight for.

**ONE** does not know all the facts. The published summary of the plan gives far too little for the critic to judge either the effectiveness of the scheme as a national health reform, or the capacity of the State to finance it. Mr. Kanew, who told the press about it, tried to make believe that it represented largely a co-ordination of existing health schemes, and that the money already spent on the separate schemes would be almost enough to finance the whole project. This seems unlikely. Coordination, if it is to be more effective for the citizen's health than the present agglomeration of systems, must also mean expansion, and must take into its range the big field now left to the private practitioner. Obviously, this will cost a great deal more than the sums at present contributed to health insurance schemes.

**THESE** are questions which the government will have to work out carefully, and which the Knesset will have to check. The important thing at the moment is that Israel should feel confident enough to start out on what should prove to be one of the major foundations of the genuine Welfare State. It shows courage and vision. In the long view, a plan of this kind will do more to impress Israel's stability and beneficial influence upon the Middle East than a dozen divisions. At the same time, it is an indication that the dominant Labour element of the present Coalition has not lost sight of some of its principles, and still has up its sleeve imaginative projects which are at the same time nationally and economically progressive. The anxious question, aside from the matter of hard cash, is whether the Government's will to perform is as real and vital as its vision of the need is clear.

## P.M. Asks Russia To Let Zionists Leave for Israel

**AFIKIM, Monday.**—An appeal to the Soviet Union to allow those Russian Jews, who so wished, to go to Israel and join in reconstructing the State, was made last night by the Prime Minister, Mr. David Ben Gurion, in a speech at the 25th anniversary celebrations at Afikim. In the U.S.S.R. national freedom was given to every people, except the Jews, he said.

Mr. Ben Gurion emphasized the outstanding part which Russian Jewry had played in the rebuilding of the country, of which the settlement of Afikim was an example.

Some 10,000 persons converged on this Jordan Valley settlement to join the festivities which began on Friday evening. Among the guests were many Knesset members and prominent figures of the Labour movement and the Kibbutz Hameuhad. During the ceremony the speeches and the dramatic programme were recorded and later broadcast.

The official celebrations opened with the raising of the flags of the various waves of immigration which Afikim had absorbed, beginning with the first members of Hashomer Hatzair from Russia and including recent newcomers from India. Around the stage stood flags from which fluttered the national colours and the red flag, and the banners of the Hashomer Hatzair group from Russia, Latvia, Lithuania; the Habonim group of the U.S. and Canada; the Netzach group of Yugoslavia; the "Blau Weiss" flag of Czechoslovakia; and flags for the immigrants from India, Poland, and the United States.

After a memorial address by Mr. M. Zohary, Mr. Aryeh Bahir reviewed the history of Afikim and its plans for the future. Mr. Ben Gurion's speech was followed by many more congratulatory addresses, including those of Mr. Levi Eshkol, for the Jewish Agency, and Mr. Z. Abrahams for the Mapei.

Special applause greeted the poets, A. Shikovsky and Leah Goldberg; Mr. M. Naim, Israel's Minister to Russia; and Mr. Elud Avriel, Minister to Bucharest. A message of greetings was sent by J. Ben-Zvi, Speaker of the Knesset.

The choir of Afikim then sang a song, "On the Book of Ezekiel," composed by L. Ravits, a member of Afikim. Folk dances and a concert by the Jordan Valley Orchestra concluded yesterday's celebrations.

Members of Jordan Valley settlements by their hundreds visited Afikim today and a reception was held for veteran settlers who exchanged reminiscences of early days of Jewish colonization in the Valley. This reception was presided over by Mr. M. Ben-Gurion, who was performed before thousands of guests.

## Sharett to Make South Africa Tour

**TEL AVIV, Monday.**—The Foreign Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, is leaving Israel on Wednesday on a goodwill mission to South Africa.

Mr. Sharett is expected to return to Israel in the middle of June.

The Minister of Labour, Mrs. G. Myerson, is to leave for the U.S.A. on Thursday to take part in the U.J.A. campaign there.

## U.K. Oil Policy Scored in Commons Debate

**LONDON, Monday (PTA).**—In a debate on petrol rationing in the House of Commons today, Conservative J. S. Arthur drew the ministers' attention to the situation in the Middle East and expressed grave concern at the situation regarding the transport of oil to Haifa.

"It seems to be an absolutely absurd position that we are sending airplanes to Egypt, at the same time as that country is violating international law by refusing to allow our tankers to go through the Suez Canal. If the Government had pursued a line of action, we could have got our tankers through and we could have the Haifa refinery going."

**U.K. STAND ON JERUSALEM.**—LONDON, Monday (UP).—A Foreign Office spokesman today said that Britain "out of loyalty" would abide by the U.N. resolution on Jerusalem. But he added that the government did not consider the proposal as realistic or workable. He said that Britain did not intend to advance any new proposals on the issue at present.

## First Baghdad Planes Arrive

**BY MONTY JACOBS**  
**TEL AVIV, Monday.**—The first flight ferrying Iraqi Jews to Israel was just a "routine trip," according to Capt. Harry Taubee, first pilot of one of the two Near East skyliners which made the initial journey.

From Lydda Airport, the new arrivals were taken to Shear Ha'Alia. They will be distributed mainly in two camps, Pardes Hana and Benayamin. No additional accommodation for the Iraqis is planned for the time being, and all of them are to be housed in existing camps. About 4,000 are expected in the first months, but Near East Airlines have plans to cope with a monthly movement of between 8,000 and 10,000.

"It took us about an hour and twenty minutes to get to Cyprus from Israel and then we flew for three and a half hours to Iraq," Capt. Taubee said on landing.

Puelted in Israel to do the double journey, Capt. Taubee's skyliner landed at the civil airport of Baghdad.

"It's run by the Iraqi Government and their airways," the American pilot went on. "We had a good reception, in fact all the officials were very cooperative. There was no trouble at all."

"My passengers were 70 men, women and children. They seemed fairly well-to-do."

## Iraqi Immigrants Leave All Possessions Behind

**TEL AVIV, Monday.**—The 2,800-year-old Jewish community of Iraq—the oldest in the world—is also one of the richest. The possessions of the 30,000 Jewish families are estimated to be worth IL156,000,000.

There is a danger that this fortune may be dissipated. The emigrants are, of course, not permitted to take their property with them. Some have simply left it behind and others have liquidated their possessions at ridiculously low terms.

Half the families owned their own homes and these buildings are estimated to be worth IL30m. In addition, lands are stated to be worth IL5m. and synagogues, schools and other buildings another IL2m.

The movable property is distributed unevenly amongst the families: about 9,000 families have property worth IL750 each and 12,000 own IL2,000. There are 100 families with fortunes of IL150,000 each and 50 with IL300,000.

**Social Structure**

Rehabilitating these people without capital will be difficult, because of their social structure. About 12,000 breadwinners are shopkeepers and small tradesmen, 8,500 are porters, domestic servants, or engaged in similar trades; 6,000 are office workers, 2,500 merchants, and 1,000 professional men, including doctors, pharmacists, lawyers and engineers.

Speaking for these immigrants before the Presidium of the Zionist General Council recently, the chairman of the Babylonian Immigrants Society, Mr. S. B. Samoon, asked that the Iraqi immigrants be given the status of war sufferers. He said they were casualties of the establishment of the State, and were entitled to compensation for their war losses.

## Disasters Strike Wide Area

**VENICE, Monday (Reuter).**—Twelve children were drowned yesterday near the village of Boaciaro in Venice province, when a bridge collapsed under a religious procession.

The parish priest, leading the procession, and about 50 children, many in their white communion dresses, were hung into the rapid Varnese river. Thirty-eight of the children were saved by their frantic parents, who were bringing up the rear of the procession.

**15 Burned Alive**

**OWALIOR, Central India, Monday (Reuter).**—Fifteen people were burned alive and one seriously injured yesterday when a fire broke out in a fireworks factory in the heart of the city. The cause of the fire is unknown.

**Ones in Peru**

**NEW YORK, Monday (Reuter).**—The New York "Daily News" radio station last night reported that an earthquake at Cuzco, Peru, resulted in serious damage.

The radio said most of the city of 45,000 inhabitants had been destroyed. Public buildings were demolished, including the national college, and the towers of two churches were buried to the ground.

**27 Dead in N.J.**

**SOUTH AMBOY, New Jersey, Monday (Reuter).**—The death toll in Saturday's explosions rose to 27.

The bodies of only nine have been recovered. The rest disappeared in the funnel of flame and smoke which followed the blast and continued through the night.

## Iraq Supports Jordan; Abdullah To Meet Regent

**BAGHDAD, Monday.**—The Iraqi Cabinet, at a midnight session yesterday, decided to support the annexation of Arab held Palestine by Jordan. The Minister of the Interior, Saleh Jahar, will visit Jordan shortly.

Well-informed sources here are of the opinion that a meeting between Abdullah and the Regent is imminent. The meeting, they say, will lay down the lines for a joint Iraqi-Jordan policy concerning the annexation by Jordan. The meeting will take place in the desert between Amman and Baghdad.

Premier Tewfik el Suwaidi told the Parliament last night that Iraq is mediating among the members of the Arab League in an effort to arrive at a "reasonable" settlement of Jordan's annexation of Arab-held Palestine.

**CAIRO, Monday (Reuter).**—Egypt will insist on the expulsion of Jordan from the League of Arab States. Reliable sources said this might involve greater concentration on talks between Israel and Jordan.

A reliable source said, however, that the replies practically excluded the possibility of such negotiations in the near future.

## No Jordan Reply

The Arab note, sent by the Egyptian delegate here, Mustafa Bey, on behalf of his government, Jordan (N.E.A.S.), however, reported from Amman that Jordan had not yet replied and the Cabinet there was due to have met last night to draft the reply. The Lebanon and Syria, maintained the provision that these states could enter direct negotiations only if Israel first agreed to allow the return of Arab refugees.

The Commission spokesman said that both replies were "under study." He said that the Lebanese delegate to the negotiations, Jamil Makawi, had also sent a communication to the Commission. This is understood to be along the lines of the Egyptian answer.

## Lie to Leave London For U.S. Tomorrow

**PARIS, Monday (UP).**—U.N. Secretary General Trygve Lie announced today that he would speed back to New York by plane on Wednesday after conferences here and in London.

Foreign Minister Robert Schuman referred to his talks with Lie in a speech yesterday to members of his Popular Republican Party. "I have talked to Mr. Lie and I have told him of the French feeling of orientation toward peace," he said.

"It is not from us that provocation comes. But even so we cannot accept either black-mail or interference in our affairs. We are also ready to admit the coexistence of two different regimes, but it is necessary that there should be an understanding of each other."

Mr. Lie will confer with Premier Georges Bidault today and then fly to London tomorrow with Mr. Atilio and Mr. Bevin. There is speculation that in London Mr. Lie will press for a solution to the Security Council deadlock over Chinese membership.

The Egyptian newspaper, "Al Ahran," had reported previously that Egypt was ready to recognize China. It pointed out that the Egyptian vote for the Chinese Communists would tip the scales in the Security Council.

## P.C.C. Again Deadlocked As Arabs Reject New Procedure

### Direct Talks With Jordan Mooted

**GENEVA, Monday (UP).**—A spokesman for the Palestine Conciliation Commission today confirmed that Israel and four Arab states had replied over the weekend to its request that both parties should send fully empowered delegates here for direct peace negotiations at an early date, but he refused to reveal the nature of the replies.

The Commission is expected to study yet another form of new procedure to break the deadlock in its peace negotiations. Reliable sources said this might involve greater concentration on talks between Israel and Jordan.

A reliable source said, however, that the replies practically excluded the possibility of such negotiations in the near future.

### Israel Reply Refuses Any Prior Conditions to Talks

**HA'KIRYA, Monday.**—A Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday that the Arab states, by insisting before entering into talks, that Israel take back the Arab refugees, were "deliberately making it impossible for peace negotiations to begin." He disclosed that the Government had sent the following message to the Palestine Conciliation Commission, which earlier this month called on both Israel and the Arabs to send delegates for the resumption of talks in Geneva on Wednesday:

The Government of Israel understands that when the Conciliation Commission framed its communication of May 11 it was not yet in a position to reply to the question contained in the Foreign Minister's earlier letter as to which Arab state or states were ready to negotiate with Israel on a final peace settlement.

The Government of Israel had furthermore been given to understand that the Commission itself realized the inadvisability of resuming its deliberations before the attitude of the Arab governments on this vital issue was definitely cleared up. In the circumstances it was presumed that the Conciliation Commission would agree with the Government of Israel that it was preferable to await clarification of the Arab attitude on the question of direct negotiations before considering the next step.

### Jordan Asks Rise in Legion Subsidy

**LONDON, Monday (Reuter).**—The Jordan Minister of Finance, Suleiman Sukar, asked Mr. Ernest Bevin to increase the British subsidy to the Arab Legion, when he called on the Foreign Secretary this afternoon, according to a usually well-informed source.

It was reported that Jordan feels that an increase in the British subsidy is necessary to maintain the existing level of equipment and efficiency on account of the world rise in prices and the particular purchasing problems of the sterling area following devaluation.

The British grant to the Legion was increased by £500,000 to £4,000,000 for the current financial year. It is understood that a further £500,000 may be necessary.

**Israel Acceptance**

Israel had explicitly accepted the Commission's offer, the spokesman pointed out, adding that the Government was still ready to begin direct talks with any "Arab state or states which declared its willingness to negotiate a final settlement."

However, the P.C.C.'s invitation of May 11 contained no reply to the Government's question whether the Arabs had expressed a willingness to negotiate, he said. The spokesman continued:

On March 29 the Palestine Conciliation Commission proposed a new procedure for direct negotiations between the Delegations of Israel and the Arab States, in an effort to find a basis for the continuation of its conciliation effort. The Arab States replied that they could accept the Conciliation Commission's proposals only if Israel committed itself in advance to agree to the return of the refugees.

The Government of Israel, in its reply, reaffirmed its readiness to conduct negotiations with the Arab States directly with or without the participation of the Conciliation Commission, for the purpose of reaching a final settlement of all issues outstanding between Israel and the Arab States. Israel could not commit itself in advance to any such question— and particularly as to the return of the refugees—until the terms of the negotiations themselves.

### Egypt Buys U.S. Arms, Doubles Army Strength

The Beirut radio has reported that Egypt has bought \$2m. worth of arms from the U.S.

The same report said that the Egyptian commanding general, Mohammed Haidar Pasha, who recently watched units training with live ammunition, declared that the advances being made by the Egyptian army were unbelievable. The army, he said, was doubling its strength. The exercises were watched by Arab League personalities and by members of the diplomatic corps.

The British artillery commander of the Arab Legion was killed in Fayid recently by a fall from his horse, the Beirut radio declared. The officer, who was not named, had been sent to Egypt to carry out an instruction course.

### Taft Says US Should Sell Arms to Israel

**NEW YORK, Monday (UP).**—Senator Robert Taft, in a message made public by the American Zionist Council today, warned that the British shipment of arms to Egypt "is an incitement to an arms race which usually leads to war."

Deploping the lifting of the arms embargo by the British Security Council in August as unfortunate, Senator Taft declared: "I believe we should immediately protest against this action and we should permit Israel to acquire arms in this country."

At the same time, Senator Taft called for a complete reconsideration by the U.N. of the proposal for the internationalization of Jerusalem, adding that the "part of Jerusalem built up by the Jews should certainly be an integral part of Israel."

### Labour Completes Secret Session

**DORKING, England, Monday (Reuter).**—British Prime Minister Clement Attlee returned to London from the country last night ready to order a general election at any time after the end of June.

For two days he had been closeted with the 56 top party leaders and members of his cabinet (with the single exception of Mr. Ernest Bevin who was busy with foreign affairs in London), the executive of the Labour Party and the laymen in the Trade Union and Co-operative organizations.

In five informal sessions they thrashed out agreement on a programme aimed at making the right psychological approach to the electors while holding the loyalty of their socialist supporters.

## USSR 'Flouts' U.N. -- Truman

**WASHINGTON, Monday (Reuter).**—President Truman said today that Soviet Russia's boycott of the U.N. over the Chinese Communist issue was a "willful flouting" of the U.N. charter.

The President made his statement in a letter to Congress accompanying his annual report on the world body.

The letter and report made clear that the President intends to strive for the United Nations as a universal organization—that is, including the Communist as well as the Western Powers.

**To Block U.S.S.R.**

At the same time he emphasized that within this framework the American government intends to do everything it can to strengthen the West and block present Soviet policies.

"It is not enough to hope for agreement or to make proposals. It is essential to create the conditions under which it will be to the interest of the Soviet Union to enter into and to keep agreements."

The President praised highly the work of the U.N. in settling the Indonesian dispute, the Arab-Jewish fighting in Palestine and the India-Pakistan troubles over Kashmir.

## India Recognition

**NEW DELHI, Monday (Reuter).**—Pandit Nehru, Indian Prime Minister, discussing at a press conference today the question of recognition of Israel, said: "We are on friendly terms with Israel, and the only question is of formal recognition involving the exchange of diplomats, which we are not prepared to do at present."

## After Midnight

Ambassador Eliahu Elath yesterday paid a farewell visit to the State Department and conferred briefly with Under Secretary James W. Webb.

Dr. Nahum Goldhamer said on arrival in New York yesterday that the aim of the Jewish Organization was to enable the present population to be born in the next five years, and said that Jews living in Iraq, Egypt and Somalia would be given priority on immigration, as these countries had not a deadline for the repatriation of Jews.

**ISRAEL AND MIDDLE EAST**

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